

REMARKS

General Remarks

With this Amendment, Applicants amend Claims 1, 10, 14, 16, 18, 21, and 33 and cancel Claims 5-9, 11-13, 17, 19-20, 22-32, and 34-38. No new matter is added. Therefore, Claims 1-4, 10, 14-16, 18, 21, and 33 are all the claims currently pending in the present application.

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention as specified in the claims. The Examiner asserts that the Figures fail to illustrate a "light rod", a "light emitting diode array" (*see e.g.* claim 3), and a "plurality of light emitting diodes" (*see e.g.* claim 3).

Regarding the "light rod" Applicants submit that this element was only present in Claim 11 and that Claim 11 is cancelled. However, Applicants also submit that this element is illustrated as the light tunnel 126 of Figure 10.

Regarding the "light emitting diode array" and the "plurality of light emitting diodes," as recited at least in Claim 3, Applicants respectfully note that these elements are illustrated in Fig. 2B (*see also* Specification, para. 3).

Regarding Fig. 6, Applicants amend Fig. 6, referred to at least at paragraph 54 of the specification, to include labels for the selective transmission member 140 and for the polarization member 180.

Therefore, in view of at least the above, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the Figures be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Specification

The specification stands objected to due to informalities. With this Amendment, Applicants amend the specification, as shown, to correct informalities therein. Applicants therefore request that the objection to the specification be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 10, 14-16, 18, 21, and 33

Claims 1-15, 22, 23, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Tiao et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,254,246 ("Tiao"). Claims 16-21, 24, 25, and 27-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tiao, in view of Parker et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0053075. Claims 5-9, 11-13, 17, 19-20, 22-32, and 34-38 are cancelled.

Regarding Claim 1, Applicants submit that any reasonable combination of Tiao and Parker fail to teach or suggest at least "a light tunnel in the form of a hollow rectangular pipe," as recited. The Examiner refers to illumination uniformizing means 310 and wedged glass rod 822 of Tiao as anticipating this limitation. However, Applicants submit that there is no disclosure or suggestion in Tiao that either of these elements is hollow.

Regarding Claims 2-4, 10, 14-16, 18, 21, and 33, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on Claim 1.


Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-4, 10, 14-16, 18, 21, and 33 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/721,760

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figure 6 with the attached, amended Figure 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet